

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02289 282318Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-13 AID-05 SSM-03 /080 W

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R 281129Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7719

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, PLO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER -- WEST BANK ELECTIONS

REF: AMMAN 2200

1. NEAR THE END OF AN EXTENDED TALK APRIL 26 I ASKED PRIME MINISTER RIFAI FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE WEST BANK ELECTIONS. RIFAI QUICKLY REPEATED MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD TOLD SENATOR JAVITS (REFTEL).

2. HE STRESSED THEMES THAT NEW GROUP OF MAYORS CONTAINS MANY UNKNOWNNS, THAT ISRAELIS ARE POSSIBLY DEVELOPING A THIRD FORCE ON THE WEST BANK, AND THAT FUTURE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS IS NOT CLEARLY SEEN FROM AMMAN. WHEN I PRESSED HIM FURTHER, HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE ELCTED WERE ACTUALLY SUBSERVIENT TO AND RESPONSIVE TO PLO. THEY SEEM TO BE NATIONALISTS, BUT IN THE LONG RUN THEY WOULD END UP BEING RESPONSIVE TO THE ISRAELIS.

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02289 282318Z

3. I ASKED HIM ABOUT NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT ALLEGED

THAT JORDAN WOULD CONTINUE ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WEST BANK INSTITUTIONS AND THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS HEADING THOSE INSTITUTIONS. RIFAI SAID WITHOUT MUCH CONVICTION THAT HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD DO SO, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHERE IT WOULD ALL LEAD.

4. WE WILL BE SPENDING MORE TIME WITH JORDANIANS ON THIS SUBJECT AND WILL SEEK FURTHER ASSESSMENTS FROM THEM. RIFAI HAD EARLIER ALSO TOLD SENATOR JAVITS, AS HAD KING HUSSEIN, THAT JORDANIANS DO NOT KNOW MANY OF THE NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS, THAT THEY REPRESENT A NEW GENERATION ON THE WEST BANK, AND BOTH CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS DID NOT OWE MUCH OF ANYTHING IN WAY OF ALLEGIENCE TO JORDAN OR KING. PICKERING

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